



222 Lewis Street
River Falls, WI 54022

715.425-0900
715.425-0915

**Community Development
MINUTES
Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
January 12, 2011
6:30 p.m. City Hall- Kinni Room**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – Meeting convened at 6:30 p.m

Members present: Betty Most, Audrey Alton, Jeanne Zirbel, Scott Morrissette,
Kirby Symes and Heidi Rushmann

Members absent: Daniel Geister

Staff present: Tony Steiner, City Planner

Others present: Carol McClelland

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

MSC Morrissette/Symes to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2010 meeting. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS-

Carol McClelland from River Falls Public Library was present. She invited Commission members to the Grand Opening Ceremony on January 28th for a traveling exhibit sponsored by the Smithsonian. The name of the exhibit is “Key Ingredients America by Food”. The exhibit will also include food history and artifacts local to the River Falls area. The exhibit runs from January 28th through March 11th.

OLD BUSINESS –

Inventory List for Historic Homes

Commission reviewed a list of homes as potential candidates for Historic Home Plaque Program. The following list was generated.

- 518 West Walnut Street.
- 323 West Maple Street
- 315 West Maple Street
- 214 North Fremont St
- 210 North Fremont St
- 558 East Maple Street
- 108 South 6th Street
- 811 Oak Knoll
- 816 Oak Knoll

The Commission will prioritize the order at the next meeting. The immediate goal is to have at least one home plaqued by Historic Preservation month.

Work Assignments for Historic Building Inventory List

The commission reviewed the top five priorities. The following work assignments were made

- The George Pratt/Rossel Building, 119b S. Main Street and the Rubin W. Fleming Tremont Building 104 N. Main Street have previously had language drafted for each. This will be brought back before the Commission for final review and revision.

- Research for the Adam Lamm Building, 208 N. Main Street will be done by Audrey and Jeanne.
- Research for the George Brackett and Jerry Flint Warehouse, 128 S. Main Street will be done by Dan and Scott.
- Research for the Falls Theater Building will be done by Heidi and Betty.

Railroad Depot Vision Discussion

Staff stated the following points:

- Per the agreement with Frisbie Properties the City reserved the right to move the building within two years of the date of sale to a location of its choice. This deadline is approximately August of 2011. After that date the City is liable for the costs of demolition and removal.
- This does not mean that the building will automatically be torn down in August. However Frisbie Properties could require that it be done any time after August.
- That it is critical that to have a plan in place to either move the building or salvage it prior to August deadline. It is possible that some demolition costs could be applied toward salvaging the building.
- The freight house is identified in the Tax Incremental District (TID) #7 (Frisbie Property) as a project that is eligible to be paid for with tax incremental revenues up to \$150,000. Project costs would have to be paid for by the City and recovered over time by the tax increment. While this is a “potential source of funding,” it is controlled by the Council and it is imperative to have a plan that makes sense if they are to consider using TID funds.
- At the December meeting the Commission was leaning towards saving the architecturally significant parts for future use in constructing an open air shelter that could possibly be converted or enclosed for use as a community museum.
- Staff suggested a site visit to determine if timbers are worth salvaging. Staff will set up a future time for the Commission to meet at the site.
- The Commission placed this item on the February agenda for further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS –

Agenda Items for February 9, 2011

1. Depot Discussion Continued
2. Review Language for downtown Plaques
 - 119 S. Main Street –George Pratt/Rossel Building
 - 104 N. Main Street –Rubin W. Fleming Tremont Building
3. Finalize Inventory List for Historic Homes

ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 7.45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Steiner, City Planner